

Mission/Vision Statement: Who we are, what we care about, and our aspirations

As members of the Lane County Latino/a/x Leaders Working Group, we recognize the rich diversity that is part of the fabric of our community. Acknowledging this diversity presents us with challenges and opportunities, since such diversity can create tensions of identity, voice, representation, and direction. Yet, we envision working with this diversity as a source of strength that motivates us to grow, nurture, and mature as a community. Our community's differences cast a wide net that includes, but is not limited, to individuals across class, religion, gender and sexual identity and expression, educational attainment, career, nationality, immigration/refugee/asylum status, racial and ethnic identities, linguistic fluency, abilities/disabilities, and artistic practices and traditions.

This mosaic portrait of our community is held together when we actively strive to nurture our familiar connections and increase each other's sense of security. Above all, the strength of our communal bonds benefit from our work to increase our opportunities to prosper and reach our educational potential that equips us with the various *facultades* to be agentic participants in our varied professions, communities, and civil society. In striving to be our complete selves within our community, we place our evolving cultures, customs, and traditions as front and center to celebrate, enrich, and remind us of our divergent paths to our joint communal identity.

As members of the Lane County Latino/a/x Leaders Working Group we are committed to: creating and supporting opportunities for members of our community to be leaders in any of our chosen professions and to be decision-makers, influencers, and changemakers. This leadership should strive to create and bring about the conditions to achieve basic needs and rights such as dignified work with fair wages, citizenship (legal status), affordable housing, and learning accommodations, to name a few. However, just as important, we commit ourselves to a model of justice-oriented behavior and work, collaborating with others as we advance. We boldly claim that we have the right and capacities to create a reality where and when our community can focus on things beyond its basic survival needs.